

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The guard as recited in claim 1, wherein the layer of foam has~~ A guard for protecting a leg of a horse comprising:
 a layer of viscoelastic, open-cell foam having a ball rebound value of about 3% or less as measured in accordance with ASTM D3574 ; and
 an attachment device for attaching one part of the layer of foam to another part of the layer of foam to permit attachment of the guard about a leg of a horse.
3. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 2, wherein the layer of foam has a ball rebound value of between about 1% and about 3%.
4. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection of about 200 pound-feet or greater at 10°C, as measured in accordance with ASTM D3574.
5. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 4, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection between about 230 pound-feet and about 500 pound-feet at 10°C.
6. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection of about 8 pound-feet or greater at 21°C as measured in accordance with ASTM D3574.
7. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 6, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection of between about 8 and about 30 pound-feet at 21°C.

8. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection of less than about 10 pound-feet at 38°C as measured in accordance with ASTM D3574.

9. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 8, wherein the layer of foam has an indentation force deflection of between about 3 and about 9 pound-feet at 38°C.

10. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the layer of viscoelastic, open-cell foam comprises a urethane foam.

11. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 10, wherein the layer of foam comprises a polyurethane foam.

12. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the layer of foam comprises a material having ~~low rebound properties and~~ high energy absorption properties.

13. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, further comprising an outer shell substantially surrounding the layer of foam.

14. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, further comprising at least one fabric layer adjacent the foam layer.

15. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the attachment device comprises a strap.

16. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the attachment device comprises a hook and loop fastener.

17. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the layer of foam is structured to be wrapped entirely about the leg of a horse, and wherein the attachment device extends between adjacent edges of the layer of foam.

18. (Currently Amended) The guard as recited in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the foam layer has two spaced generally parallel edges to provide an opening in the guard, and wherein the attachment device extends between the two spaced edges of foam.

19. (Original) A guard for protecting a leg of a horse comprising:

an outer shell having a curved configuration;

a layer of material disposed within the shell that is conformable to a shape of a horse's leg at a body temperature of a horse, the layer of material having high energy absorption properties; and

an attachment device for attaching one portion of the outer shell to another portion of the outer shell to secure the guard about a leg of a horse.

20. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the layer of material is formed of a viscoelastic, open-cell foam.

21. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the layer of material has low rebound properties.

22. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the layer of material allows air to pass therethrough.

23. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the layer of material includes a fabric layer adjacent a layer of viscoelastic, open-cell foam.

24. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the attachment device includes a strap which connects one edge of the outer shell to another edge of the outer shell.

25. (Original) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the attachment device comprises a first portion disposed on an outer surface of the shell, and another portion disposed on an inner

surface of the layer of material and adapted to mate with the first portion on the outer surface of the shell.

26. (Original) A method of protecting an area to be protected on the leg of a horse, the method comprising:

wrapping about the area to be protected a layer of open-cell, viscoelastic foam having low rebound properties and high energy absorption properties;

allowing the layer of foam to conform to the shape of the leg of the horse; and

attaching one portion of the layer of foam to another portion thereof to secure the layer of foam about the leg of the horse.

27. (New) The guard as recited in claim 2, wherein the layer of foam is conformable to a shape of the leg of the horse.

28. (New) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the outer shell is more rigid than the foam.

29. (New) The guard as recited in claim 19, wherein the outer shell is formed of a plastic or leather material.

30. (New) The guard as recited in claim 29, wherein the outer shell is formed of a rigid plastic material.